

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Reports from the Covington Independent and Union County school districts on the status of their school and district support plans (Reports from districts under separate cover)

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 160.345, KRS 160.346, KRS 158.6455 and the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

History/Background:

Existing Policy. Over the last several years, school districts in Kentucky have been held accountable for progress through the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System (CATS) and the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). Both of these accountability systems include consequences for schools and districts not making expected progress.

The Covington Independent School District has schools that have failed to meet specific requirements under CATS and the district is in its third year of Tier 3 status under NCLB. Covington was asked to report to the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) to share its plan for meeting CATS and NLCB goals. They have appeared before the board on four (4) previous occasions to provide updates on the progress they are making and will appear again in February to provide an update.

Union County will be making its first report to the KBE in February. Union County was recently added to the list of districts being asked to report to the KBE because they have also reached Tier 3 status under NCLB and have a school that has reached Tier 5 status under NCLB. In addition, the superintendent of Union County Schools has declined the Kentucky Department of Education's offer of an ASSIST Team to support the district's efforts in improving student achievement. Since the district is required to have planned and coordinated efforts on improving student achievement under its Tier 3 status and the school's Tier 5 status, the superintendent must inform the Board on how the district plans to do this since the ASSIST Team was declined.

KRS 156.070(1) states that the Kentucky Board of Education "shall have the management and control of the common schools and all programs in these schools..." It is this authority that allows the board to request accountability reports from school districts that are not meeting the requirements for meeting proficiency.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

The local district superintendents and boards of education of the Covington Independent and Union County School Districts have the authority and responsibility to ensure their improvement plans include actions to assist and strengthen low-performing schools and that those actions are fully implemented, monitored, and adjusted to meet the needs of all students. This is essential in assuring that all students in the districts reach proficiency. The full implementation of their plans should assist and strengthen these low-performing schools and districts.

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